

<p>Suicide ranks among the top causes of death in the USA. The truth is because every human is made in the image of God, no one has the right to murder, even oneself. Saul and his armor bearer took their own lives, mainly because they faced a more brutal and humiliating death at the hands of their enemies. According to Scripture we find only two accounts of suicide, as we understand it, cf. 2 Samuel 17, Judas. We might say that Judas' unrelieved guilt drove him to take his own life.</p>		
<p><u>SOME THOUGHTS:</u> (1) Satan's strategy, cf. 1 Peter 5:8 (there is such a thing as spiritual warfare). (2) Circumstances are often overwhelming and hard, even David expressed this, cf. Psalms 69:1. (3) Sickness, medications affecting brain chemistry. (4) Sin, violating the 6th commandment.</p>	<p><u>TRANSITION:</u> In our text, Matthew describes the illegal trial (vs. 1-2), then moves to describe Judas' betrayal. Why does Matthew move to describe Judas' suicide. It seems to be able to show contrasts between innocent Jesus and guilty Judas. Between the hypocrisy of man and the prophecy of God.</p>	<p><u>WHERE WAS JUDAS?</u> (1) "then when" is actually translated "at that time." He saw Jesus. Just as Jesus looked into Peter's eyes when the rooster crowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saw (sometimes in figurative) but here it's literal. - He saw all that was being done to Jesus and indeed the leaders intended to kill Him. - The sight was too much even for his money hungry mind.
<p><u>HE FELT REMORSE (Vs. 3)</u> - The exposure Judas had to miracles, hope, joy, love and compassion and mercy, yet, he had a hardened heart. The remorse was from condemnation. Guilty. Ashamed of his actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luke describes Judas' actions, cf. Luke 22:3; John 13:2; John 6:70. - His remorse was not he was afraid of God, because if he was, he would have turned to Him for grace and forgiveness. - He wasn't remorseful or afraid of men, they had no reason to harm him. - Men have a feeling of right and wrong at times. 		<p><u>JUDAS' REMORSE WAS NOT PROMPTED BY GOD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Greek word used here was a general idea of regret or sorrow, not a genuine change of mind and will. - Spiritual penitence isn't generated by emotional remorse. - Genuine sorrow for sin can only be prompted by God, cf. 2 Cor. 7:10.
<p><u>HOW WE KNOW HIS REPENTANCE WASN'T GENUINE?</u> (1) Some say he had no desire to rescue Jesus. (2) He didn't exhibit an obedience to Christ nor His forgiveness. (3) His response was to men, not God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He hoped his guilt would be removed by giving the money back. - Many today know they are guilty, but go to men or self-help or positive attitudes. 	<p><u>NO CHANGE OF MIND:</u> Even Judas saw no sin in Jesus and admitted His innocence. Yet, he did not change his mind or direction about Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sin never brings the satisfaction it promises. - What is that to us (vs. 4)? They had no concern for Judas. They had no concern for people in general, cf. Matthew 23:4. 	<p><u>JUDAS KNEW HE WAS CURSED:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the law, cf. Dt. 27:25 and in his frustration, he threw the money to the ground. - He went out and hanged himself. He believed he was cursed, and this self inflicted judgment was his only answer. - Death does not relieve guilt. It makes it permanent, cf. Matthew 8:12; Mark 9:43-44. - Acts 1:18 is the only other place that describes his suicide.
<p><u>CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:</u> Vs. 6-10 we see God glorified in the death of Judas as prophecy and Scripture is again fulfilled. (1) They used defiled money to buy a defiled and useless field to bury defiled strangers. It becomes common knowledge "The Field of Blood" had been purchased with blood money and by this name the entire city acknowledged Jesus' innocence. (2) This was prophesied in the OT prophets. (3) Even in Judas' death, God is glorified. (See Conclusion Note)</p>		

1 Peter 5:8, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." **Psalms 69:1-4**, "Save me, O God, For the waters have threatened my life. I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore." **Luke 22:3**, "And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot." **John 13:2**, "During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him." **John 6:70**, "Jesus answered them, Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" **2 Corinthians 7:10**, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death." **Matthew 23:4**, "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger." **Dt. 27:25**, "Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to strike down an innocent person." **Matthew 8:12**, "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **Mark 9:43-44**, "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." **Acts 1:18**, "Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out."

Conclusion Note: True repentance will produce a change in behavior and life and actions. Some today feel guilty because of sin and disobedience. You tell your spouse or your friend. They encourage you. They forgive you. But you don't come to God. **Acts 20:20-21**, "How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." Who are you repenting to?